

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246541

FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 8916 ACTION SECSTATE SEP 20.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8916

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: EFIN ECON UN VE

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH GOV OFFICIAL ON THE SUSPENTION
OF THE UNGA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REF: STATE 233264

1. ON SEP 19 THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF
VISITED THE MINISTRY FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY
AND SPOKE WITH MINISTER PEREZ GUERRERO'S PRINCIPAL DEPUTY,
DR ENRIQUE TER HORST ABOUT THE SUSPENSION OF THE
RESUMED SESSION OF THE UNGA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE(COW).
THE COUNSELOR EXPLAINED THE US POSITION ON THE COW,
DRAWING FROM REFTEL, THE HORMATS STATEMENT AND STATE 225331.
HE ELICITED DR TER HORTS'S ASSESSMENT OF WHAT HAPPENED
AT THE SESSION, ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE
ANDHOW THE COW ISSUE SHOULD BE HANDLED IN THE UNGA.

2. TAKING FIRST WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SESSION, IT WAS
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TER HORSTS IMPRESSION THAT ON WEDNESDAY, SEP 6,
AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE WORKING DESCRIBING THE
FUNCTIONS OF COW. MR HORMATS HAD ACCEPTED THE WORKDING
"AD REFERENDUM" PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. ON
THURSDAY MORNING THE US DELEGATION INDICATED THEY
COULD NOT ACCEPT THE DRAFT. DR TER HORST SAID HIS
DELEGATION FELT THE CHANGE IN POSITION "WAS VERY UNFORTUNATE,

A REAL LET DOWN" AND PRECLUDED FURTHER PROGRESS. HE
CONDIDERED THE US CHANGE AS "SOMETHING OF A DECEPTION."

3. VENEZUELA'S VIEW IS THAT COW IS NOT NEEDED IF IT IS
TO BE A CONSENSUS BODY ONLY, CARRYING ON DIALOGUE FOR
DIALOGUE'S SAKE. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DO NOT WANT TO
SEE COW RELEGATED TO THE STATUS OF A "STATIC FORUM" WHRE
EACH SIDE "GIVES PREPARED POSITIONS ON PREDETERMINED ITEMS
OF DISCUSSION AND THEN GOES HOME." NOW THE DECISIONLLOCUS
WILL MOVE TO THE UNGA TO DECIDE WHETHER TO CLARIFY OR
MODIFY THE 32-174 MANDATE OR DECIDE ON SOMETHING ELSE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION AS TO HOW COW ISSUES SHOULD BE
HANDLED AT THE 33RD UNGA, TER HORST REPLIED THAT VENEZUELA
HAD "NO FINAL VIEW". THE G-77 WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS
IN THE PLENARY. VENEZUELA WOULD GO ALONG WITH WHTEVER THE
G-77 DECIDES.

5. REMARKING ON WHAT THE SUSPENSION OF COW WOULD MEAN
IN THE WAY OF IMPLICATIONS FOR THENORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE,
TER HORST SAW DEFINITE DETERIORATION UNLESS THERE IS
SOME SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES'
PART TO SETTLE WHAT THE FUNCTION OF COW SHALL BE. IF
COW IS NOT TO BE GIVEN DEFINITE NEGOTIATING CAPABILITY,
THE US SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT "IT REALLY INTENDS TO
GET ONWITH THE NIEO BY NEGOTIATING IN OTHER FORUMS."
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VENEZUELA WILL FOLLOW WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST THE
ATTITUDE OF THE US IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE COMON FUND
IN NOVEMBER AND IN UNCTAD V NEXT MAY. IN OTHER WORDS IF
THE US DELEGATION DOESNOT WANT COW TO IMPINGE UON
NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER FORUMS,THERE SHOULD BE MORE MOVEMENT
IN THESE OTHER FORUMS.

6. DR TER HORST ADDED THAT A REPORT ON THE COW SESSION
HAS BEEN MADE TO THE VENEZUELAN CABINET AND THE PRESIDENT,
BUT HE DID NOT COMMENT ON THE REACTION (HE PROBABLY WAS
NOT PRESENT.

CROWLEY
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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